



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON AGING

February 19, 2009

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House Bill 5600 – An Act Concerning Access to Comprehensive Factual Information Regarding Long-Term Care Facilities

The Department of Public Health provides the following information with regard to House Bill 5600.

- Subsection (2) proposes informing the patient of the names and credentials of all staff rendering direct care to patients in the facility. Nursing Homes have a 45% turnover rate of direct care staff and many rely on nursing pools to supplement staffing. Due to this issue, providing the credentials of all staff to patients will be a monumental task and may take away from the patient's care.
- Subsection (10) proposes providing a statement at admission and during a patient's stay that the nursing home utilizes the "most appropriate and best care practices" to the patient. Best practices are identified by a variety of entities. There are national, state, regional, and discipline-specific best practices. With this variety of "best practices" the value of this requirement is lost.
- Subsection (16) proposes the patient be provided with a written statement reporting the facility's quality rating as determined by the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services along with the facility's current state license status upon admission and during the time of the patient's stay. Providing the CMS 5 Star Quality Rating at admission and during a patient's stay will be another huge task for an industry that is working with reduced resources since this rating is updated several times per year. The Department has a link to the 5 Star CMS Rating System on its webpage, so that the public may access current information. Providing information regarding the facility's current state license status would be a moot point since all licensed healthcare institutions are expected to validate current licensure or certification prior to allowing individuals to provide care and services.

The Department is supportive of the Committee's efforts to enhance patient rights, however additions should have more tangible benefits.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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